

A
PARAPHRASE

On PART of the

Book of *J O B.*

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To the Right Honourable

T H O M A S
Lord P A R K E R,

Baron of M A C C L E S F I E L D, Lord High-
Chancellor of Great-Britain, &c.

My LORD,

THOUGH I have not the Honour of being known to Your Lordship, I presume to take a Privilege which Men of Retirement are apt to think themselves in Possession of, as being the only Method they have of making their Way to Persons of Your Lordship's high Station without struggling through Multitudes for Access. I may possibly fail in my Respect to your Lordship, even while I endeavour to shew it most; but if I err, it is because I imagin'd I ought not to make my first Approach to one of your Lordship's exalted Character with less Ceremony than that of a Dedication. It is annexed to the Condition of eminent Merit, not to suffer more from the Malice of it's Enemies, than from the Importance of it's Admirers; and perhaps it would be unjust, that Your Lordship should hope to be exempted from the Troubles, when You possess all the Talents of a Patron.

I have here a fair Occasion to celebrate those sublime Qualities, of which a whole Nation is sensible, were it not inconsistent with the Design of my present Application. By the

just Discharge of Your great Employments, Your Lordship may well deserve the Prayers of the Distressed, the Thanks of your Country, and the Approbation of your Royal Master: This indeed is a Reason why every good Briton should applaud your Lordship, but it is equally a Reason why None should disturb You in the Execution of your important Affairs by Works of Fancy and Amusement. I was therefore induced to make this Address to your Lordship, by considering You rather in the amiable Light of a Person distinguish'd for a refined Taste of the polite Arts, and the Candor that usually attends it, than in the Dignity of Your publick Character.

The Greatness, and Solemnity of the Subjects treated of in the following Work, cannot fail in some Measure to recommend it to a Person who holds in the utmost Veneration those sacred Books from which it is taken; and would at the same Time justify to the World my Choice of the great Name prefix'd to it, could I be assured that the Undertaking had not suffer'd in my Hands. Thus much I think my self obliged to say, that if this little Performance had not been very indulgently spoken of by some, whose Judgment is universally allow'd in writings of this Nature, I had not dar'd to gratify my Ambition in offering it to Your Lordship: I am sensible that I am endeavouring to excuse one Vanity by another; but I hope I shall meet with Pardon for it, since it is visibly intended to show the great Submission and Respect with which I am,

My LORD,



Your Lordship's most Obedient,

and most Humble Servant,

EDWARD YOUNG.



A

PARAPHRASE

O N

PART of the BOOK of *JOB*.



H R I C E happy *Job* long liv'd in regal state,
Nor saw the sumptuous east a prince so
great ;

Whose worldly stores in such abundance
flow'd,

Whose heart with such exalted virtue glow'd :

At length misfortunes take their turn to reign,

And ills on ills succeed ; A dreadful train !

What now but deaths, and poverty, and wrong,

The sword wide-wasting, the reproachful tongue,

And spotted plagues that mark'd his limbs all o'er

So thick with pains, they wanted room for more ?

A

A change so sad, what mortal here cou'd bear?
 Exhausted woe had left him nought to fear,
 But gave him all to grief; low earth he prest,
 Wept in the dust, and sorely smote his breast:
 His friends around the deep affliction mourn'd,
 Felt all his pangs, and groan for groan return'd;
 In anguish of their hearts their mantles rent,
 And seven long days in solemn silence spent;
 A debt of reverence to distress so great!
 Then *Job* contain'd no more, but curs'd his fate:
 His day of birth, its inauspicious light
 He wishes sunk in shades of endless night,
 And blotted from the year; nor fears to crave
 Death, instant death, impatient for the grave;
 That seat of peace, that mansion of repose,
 Where rest and mortals are no longer foes;
 Where counsellors are hush'd, and mighty kings,
 Oh happy turn! no more are wretched things.

His words were daring, and displeas'd his friends;
 His conduct they reprove, and he defends;
 And now they kindled into warm debate,
 And sentiments oppos'd with equal heat;



Fixt in opinion, both refuse to yield,
And summon all their reason to the field;
So high at length their arguments were wrought,
They reach'd the last extent of human thought:
A pause ensu'd. When lo! heaven interpos'd,
And awfully the long contention clos'd.
Full o'er their heads, with terrible surprize
A sudden whirlwind blacken'd all the skies;
(They saw, and trembled!) from the darkness broke
A dreadful voice, and thus th' Almighty spoke.

W H O gives his tongue a loose so bold and vain,
Censures my conduct, and reproves my reign?
Lifts up his thought against me from the dust,
And tells the world's Creator what is just?
Of late so brave, now lift a dauntless eye,
Face my demand, and give it a reply.
Where didst thou dwell at nature's early birth?
Who laid foundations for the spacious *Earth*?
Who on its surface did extend the line,
Its form determine, and its bulk confine?
Who fix'd the corner stone? What hand, declare,
Hung it on nought, and fasten'd it in air?

When

When the bright morning stars in consort sung,
 When heaven's high arch with loud hosanna's rung,
 When shouting sons of God the triumph crown'd,
 And the wide concave thunder'd with the sound.

EARTH's num'rous *kingdoms*, hast thou view'd them all,
 And can thy span of knowledge grasp the ball?
 Who heav'd the *mountain*, which sublimely stands,
 And casts its shadow into distant lands?

W H O stretching forth his sceptre o'er the deep
 Can that wild world in due subjection keep?
 I broke the globe, I scoop'd its hollow side,
 And did a basin for the floods provide,
 I chain them with my word; the boiling sea
 Work'd up in tempests hears my great decree.
 " Thus far, thy floating tide shall be convey'd,
 " And here, O main, be thy proud billows stay'd.

H A S T thou explor'd the *Secrets* of the deep,
 Where shut from use, unnumber'd treasures sleep;
 Where down a thousand fathoms from the day,
 Springs the great fountain, mother of the sea?

Part of the Book of JOB.

9

Those gloomy paths did thy bold foot e'er tread,
Whole worlds of waters rolling o'er thy head?

H A T H the cleft *Centre* open'd wide to thee?
Death's inmost chambers didst thou ever see?
E'er knock at his tremendous gate, and wade
To the black portal thro' th' incumbent shade?
Deep are those shades, but deeper they that hide
My councils from the ken of human pride.

W H E R E dwells the *light*, in what resulgent dome?
And where has *darkness* made her dismal home?
Thou know'st no doubt, since thy large heart is fraught
With ripen'd wisdom thro' long ages brought,
Since nature was call'd forth when thou wast by,
And into being rose beneath thine eye.

A R E *mists* begotten? Who their father knew?
From whom descend the pearly drops of dew?
To bind the stream by night, what hand can boast,
Or whiten morning, with the hoary *frost*?
Whose powerful breath from northern regions blown,
Touches the sea, and turns it into stone?

B

A

A sudden desert spreads o'er realms defac'd,
And lays one half of the creation waste.

THOU know'st me not, thy blindness cannot see
How vast a distance parts thy God from thee;
Can'st thou in *whirlwinds* mount aloft, can'st thou
In clouds, and darkness wrap thy awful brow?
And when day triumphs in meridian light,
Put forth thy hand, and shade the world with night?

WHO launch'd the *clouds* in air, and bid them roll
Suspended seas aloft, from pole to pole?
Who can refresh the burning sandy plain,
And quench the summer with a waste of rain?
Who in rough deserts far from human toil,
Make rocks bring forth, and desolation smile?
There blooms the rose, where human face ne'er shone,
And spreads it's beauties to the sun alone.

TO check the show'r, who lifts his hand on high,
And shuts the Sluces of th' exhausted sky,
When earth no longer mourns her gaping veins,
Her naked mountains, and her russet plains,

But

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11

But you in life a chearful prospect yields
Of shining rivers, and of verdant fields,
When groves and forests lavish all their Bloom,
And earth, and heav'n, are fill'd with rich perfume?

H A S T thou e'er scal'd my wint'ry skies, and seen,
Of *hails*, and *snows*, my northern magazine?
These the dread treasures of mine anger are,
My fund of vengeance, for the day of war,
When clouds rain death, and storms, at my command,
Rage thro' the world, or waste a guilty land.

W H O taught the rapid *winds* to fly so fast,
Or shakes the centre with his eastern blast?
Who from the skies can a whole deluge pour?
Who strikes thro' nature with the solemn roar
Of dreadful *thunder*, points it where to fall,
And in fierce *lightning* wraps the flying ball?
Not he who trembles at the darted fires,
Falls at the sound, and in the flash expires.

W H O drew the *comet* out to such a size,
And pour'd his flaming train o'er half the skies?

Did thy resentment hang him out? does he
Glare on the nations, and denounce from thee?

Who on low earth can moderate the reign,
That guides the *stars* along th' ethereal plain,
Appoint their seasons, and direct their course,
Their lustre brighten, and supply their force?
Canst thou the skies benevolence restrain,
And cause the *Pleiades* to shine in vain?
Or when *Orion* sparkles from his sphere,
Thaw the cold season, and unbind the year?
Bid *Mazeroth* his destin'd station know,
And teach the bright *Arcturus* where to glow?
Mine is the *night*, with all her stars; I pour
Myriads, and Myriads I reserve in store.

Do s t thou pronounce where day-light shall be born;
And draw the purple curtain of the morn;
Awake the *sun*, and bid him come away,
And glad thy world with his obsequious ray?
Hast thou, enthron'd in flaming glory, driv'n
Triumphant round the spacious ring of heav'n?
That pomp of light, what hand so far displays,
That distant earth lyes basking in the blaze?

WHO did the *soul* with her rich pow'rs invest,
And light up reason in the human breast,
To shine, with fresh increase of lustre, bright,
When stars and sun are set in endless night?
To these my various questions make reply.

TH' Almighty spoke, and speaking shook the sky.

WHAT then, *Chaldean* fire, was thy surprize?
Thus thou, with trembling heart, and down-cast eyes,
“ Once and again, which I in groans deplore,
“ My tongue has err'd, but shall presume no more:
“ My voice is in eternal silence bound,
“ And all my soul falls prostrate to the ground.

HE ceas'd: When lo! again th' Almighty spoke;
The same dread voice from the black *whirlwind* broke;

CAN that arm measure with an arm divine?
And canst thou thunder with a voice like mine?
Or in the hollow of thy hand contain
The bulk of waters, the wide-spreading main,
When mad with tempests all the billows rise
In all their rage, and dash the distant skies?

COME

COME forth in beauty's excellency array'd,
 And be the grandeur of thy pow'r display'd;
 Put on omnipotence, and frowning make
 The spacious round of the creation shake;
 Dispatch thy vengeance, bid it overthrow
 Triumphant voice, lay lofty tyrants low,
 And crumble them to dust: When this is done,
 I grant thy safety lodg'd in thee alone;
 Of thee thou art, and may'st undaunted stand,
 Behind the buckler of thy own right hand.

FOND man! the vision of a moment made!
 Dream of a dream! and shadow of a shade!
 What worlds hast thou produc'd, what creatures fram'd,
 What insects cherish'd, that thy God is blam'd?
 When pain'd with hunger the wild *ravens* brood
 Calls upon God importunate for food,
 Who hears their cry, who grants their hoarse request,
 And stills the clamour of the craving nest?

WHO in the cruel *Ostrich* has subdu'd
 A parent's care, and fond inquietude?

WHILE far she flies, her scatter'd eggs are found,
Without an owner on the sandy ground;
Cast out on fortune, they at mercy lye,
And borrow life from an indulgent sky;
Adopted by the sun, in blaze of day,
They ripen under his prolific ray;
Unmindful she, that some unhappy tread
May crush her young, in their neglected bed;
What time she skims along the field with speed,
She scorns the rider, and pursuing steed.

How rich the *Peacock*? what bright glories run
From plume to plume, and vary in the sun?
He proudly spreads them to the golden ray,
Gives all his colours, and adorns the day,
With conscious state the spacious round displays,
And slowly moves amid the waving blaze.

WHO taught the *Hawk* to find, in seasons wise,
Perpetual summer, and a change of skies?
When clouds deform the year, she mounts the wind,
Shoots to the south, nor fears the storm behind;

The

The sun returning, she returns again,
Lives in his beams, and leaves ill days to Men.

THO' strong the hawk, tho' practis'd well to fly,
An *Eagle* drops her in a lower sky;
An *Eagle*, when deserting human sight,
She seeks the sun in her unweary'd flight:
Did thy command her yellow pinion lift
So high in air, and seat her on the clift,
Where far above the world she dwells alone,
And proudly makes the strength of rocks her own;
Thence wide o'er nature takes her dread survey,
And with a glance predestinates her prey;
She feasts her young with blood, and hov'ring o'er
Th' unslaughter'd host, enjoys the promis'd gore.

KNOW'ST thou how many moons, by me assign'd,
Rowl o'er the mountain *Goat*, and forest *Hind*,
While pregnant they a mother's load sustain?
They bend in anguish, and cast forth their pain.
Hale are their young, from human frailties free'd,
Walk unsustain'd, and unassisted feed;
They live at once, forsake the dam's warm side,
Take the wide world, with nature for their guide,

Bound

Bound o'er the lawn, or seek the distant glade,
And find a home in each delightful shade.

WILL the tall *reem*, which knows no lord but me,
Lowe at the crib, and ask an alms of thee?
Submit his unworn shoulder to the yoke,
Break the stiff clod, and o'er thy furrow smook?
Since great his strength, go trust him, void of care,
Lay on his neck the toil of all the year,
Bid him bring home the seasons to thy doors,
And cast his load among thy gather'd stores.

DIDST thou from service the *wild-as* discharge,
And break his bonds, and bid him live at large,
Thro' the wide waste, his ample mansion roam,
And lose himself in his unbounded home?
By nature's hand magnificently fed,
His meal is on the range of mountains spread;
As in pure air aloft he bounds along,
He sees in distant smook the city throng.
Conscious of freedom, scorns the smother'd train,
The threat'ning driver, and the servile rein.

SURVEY the warlike *horse*! didst thou invest
With thunder, his robust distended Chest?

No sense of fear his dauntless soul allays;
'Tis dreadful to behold his nostril blaze;
To paw the vale he proudly takes delight,
And triumphs in the fulness of his might;
High-rai'd he snuffs the battle from afar,
And burns to plunge amid the raging war,
And mocks at death, and throws his foam around,
And in a storm of fury shakes the ground:
How does his firm, his rising heart advance,
Full on the brandish'd sword, and shaken lance;
While his fixt eye-balls meet the dazzling shield,
Gaze, and return the lightning of the field?
He sinks the sense of pain in gen'rous pride,
Nor feels the shaft that trembles in his side,
But neighs to the shrill trumpet's dreadful blast,
'Till death; and when he groans, he groans his last.

BUT fiercer still the lordly *Lion* stalks,
Grimly majestick in his lonely walks;
When round he glares, all living creatures fly,
He clears the desert with his rolling eye:
Say, mortal, does he rouse at thy command,
And roar to thee, and live upon thy hand?

Dost thou for him in forests bend thy bow,
And to his gloomy den the morsel throw,
Where bent on death lye hid his tawny brood,
And couch'd in dreadful ambush pant for blood ;
Or stretch'd on broken limbs, consume the day
In darkness wrapt, and slumber o'er their prey ?
By the pale moon they take their destin'd round,
And lash their sides, and furious tears the ground ;
Now shrieks, and dying groans the desert fill ;
They rage, they rend, their ravenous jaws distill
With crimson foam ; and when the banquer's o'er
They stride away, and paint their steps with gore ;
In flight alone the shepherd puts his trust
And shudders at the talon in the dust,

MILD is my *Behemoth*, tho' large his frame,
Smooth is his temper, and repress his flame,
While unprovok'd : This native of the flood
Lifts his broad foot, and puts ashore for food ;
Earth sinks beneath him, as he moves along
To seek the herds, and mingle with the throng ;
See, with what strength his harden'd loyns are bound,
All over proof, and shut against a wound ;

How like a mountain cedar moves his tail ;
 Nor can his complicated sinews fail ;
 Built high and wide, his solid bones surpass
 The bars of steel, his ribs are ribs of brass ;
 His port majestick, and his armed jaw,
 Give the wide forest, and the mountain law ;
 The mountains feed him ; there the beasts admire
 The mighty stranger, and in dread retire ;
 At length his greatness nearer they survey,
 Graze in his shadow, and his eye obey :
 The fens and marshes are his cool retreat,
 His noon-tide shelter from the burning heat ;
 Their sedgy bosoms his wide couch are made,
 And groves of willows give him all their shade ;
 His eye drinks *Jordan* up, when fir'd with drought
 He trusts to turn his current down his throat ;
 In lessen'd waves it creeps along the plain,
 He sinks a river, and he thirsts again.

Go to the *Nile*, and from its fruitful side,
 Cast forth thy line into the swelling tide,
 With slender hair *Leviathan* command,
 And stretch his vastness on the loaded strand :

Part of the Book of JOB.

21

Will he become thy servant, will he own
Thy lordly nod, and tremble at thy frown,
Or with his sport amuse thy leisure day,
And bound in silk with thy soft maidens play?

SHALL pompous banquets swell with such a prize,
And the bowl journey round his ample size?
Or the debating merchants share the prey,
And various limbs to various marts convey?
Thro' his firm skull what steel its way can win?
What forceful engine can subdue his skin?
Fly far, and live; tempt not his matchless might;
The bravest shrink to cowards in his sight;
The rashest dare not rouse him up; who then
Shall turn on me, among the sons of men?

AM I a debtor? hast thou ever heard
Whence come the gifts which are on me conferr'd?
My lavish fruit a thousand vallies fills,
And mine the herds, that graze a thousand hills;
Earth, sea, and air, all nature is my own,
And stars, and sun, are dust beneath my throne;
And dar'st thou with the world's great Father vye,
Thou, who dost tremble at my creature's eye?

At

At full my huge *Leviathan* shall rise,
Boast all his strength, and spread his wond'rous size,

W H O, great in arms, e'er stripp'd his shining mail,
Or crown'd his triumph with a single scale?
Whose heart sustains him to draw near? behold
Destruction yawns, his spacious jaws unfold,
And marshal'd round the wide expanse, disclose
Teeth edg'd with death, and crowding rows on rows;
What hideous fangs on either side arise,
And what a deep abyss between them lyes?
Meet with thy lance, and with thy plummet sound,
The one how long, the other how profound.

H I s bulk is charg'd with such a furious soul,
That clouds of smoak from his spread nostrils roll
As from a furnace, and, when rous'd his ire,
Fate issues from his jaws in streams of fire:
The rage of tempests, and the roar of seas,
Thy terror, this thy great superior please;
Strength on his ample shoulder sits in state,
His well join'd limbs are dreadfully compleat,
His flakes of solid flesh are slow to part,
As steel his nerves, as adamant his heart.

W H E N

W H E N late-awak'd he rears him from the floods;
And stretching forth his stature to the clouds,
Writhes in the sun aloft his scaly height,
And strikes the distant hills with transient light;
Far round are fatal damps of terror spread,
The mighty fear, nor blush to own their dread.

L A R G E is his front and when his burnish'd eyes
Lift their broad lids, the morning seems to rise.

I N vain may death in various shapes invade,
The swift-wing'd arrow, the descending blade;
His naked breast their impotence defies,
The dart rebounds, the brittle faulchion flies:
Shut in himself, the war without he hears,
Safe in the tempest of their rattling spears;
The cumber'd strand their wasted volleys strow
His sport, the rage and labour of the foe.

H I s pastimes like a chaldron boyl the flood,
And blacken ocean with the rising mud;
The billows feel him, as he works his way:
His hoary footsteps shine along the sea;

The

The foam high-wrought, with white, divides the green,
And distant sailors point where death has been.

HIS like earth bears not on her spacious face,
Alone in nature stands his dauntless race,
For utter ignorance of fear renown'd;
In wrath he rolls his baleful eyes around,
Makes every swoln, disdainful heart subside
And holds dominion o'er the sons of pride.

THEN the *Chaldaean* eas'd his lab'ring breast,
With full conviction of his crime oppress'd.

"THOU canst accomplish all things, Lord of might!
" And every thought is naked to thy sight:
" But oh! thy ways are wonderful, and lye
" Beyond the deepest reach of mortal eye,
" Oft have I heard of thine Almighty pow'r,
" But never saw thee 'till this dreadful hour;
" O'erwhelm'd with shame, the lord of life I see,
" Abhor my self, and give my soul to thee:
" Nor shall my weakness tempt thine anger more:
" Man was not made to question, but adore.





NOTES.

IT is disputed among the criticks who was the author of the book of *Job*; some give it to *Moses*, some to others. As I was engag'd in this little performance, some arguments occur'd to me which favour the former of these opinions; and because I do not find them mention'd by any one else, I have flung them into the following notes, where little else is to be expected.

Page 5. *Thrice happy Job, &c.*] The Almighty's speech Chapter 38; &c. which is what I paraphrase in this little Work, is by much the finest part of the noblest, and most antient poem in the world. Bishop *Patrick* says its grandeur is as much above all other poetry, as thunder is louder than a whisper. In order to set this distinguish'd part of the poem in a fuller light, and give the reader a clearer conception of it, I have abridg'd the preceding and subsequent parts of the poem, and join'd them to it; so that this piece is a sort of an epitome of the whole book of *Job*.

I use the word *paraphrase*, because I want another which might better answer to the uncommon liberties I have taken. I have omitted, added, and transpos'd. The *Mountain*, the *Comet*, the *Sun*, and other parts are entirely added: The *Peacock*, the *Lion*, &c. are much enlarg'd: And I have thrown the whole into a method more suitable to our notions of regularity. The judicious, if they compare this piece with the original, will, I flatter myself,

D

self,

N O T E S.

self, find the reasons for the great liberties I have indulg'd my self in through the whole.

Longinus has a chapter on interrogations, which shews that they contribute much to the sublime. This speech of the Almighty is made up of them. Interrogation seems indeed the proper style of majesty incens'd. It differs from other manner of reproof, as bidding a person execute himself, does from a common execution; for he that ask the guilty a proper question, makes him, in effect, pass sentence on himself.

Page 7. ——— *From the darkness broke
A dreadful voice, and thus th' Almighty spoke*] The book of *Job* is well known to be dramatick, and like the tragedies of old *Greece*, is fiction built on truth. Probably this most noble part of it, the Almighty speaking out of the whirlwind (so suitable to the after-practise of the *Greek* stage, when there happen'd *dignus vindice nodus*) is fictitious; but it is a fiction more agreeable to the time in which *Job* liv'd, than to any since. Frequent before the law were the appearances of the Almighty after this manner, *Exodus* c. 19. *Ezekiel* c. 1. &c. Hence is he said to dwell in thick darkness: *And have his way in the whirlwind.*

Page 8. *Thus far, thy floating tide, &c.*] There is a very great air in all that precedes, but this is signally sublime. We are struck with admiration to see the vast and ungovernable ocean receiving commands, and punctually obeying them; to find it like a manag'd horse raging, tossing, and foaming, but by the rule and direction of its master. This passage yields in sublimity to that of *Let there be light*, &c. so much only, as the absolute government of nature yields to the creation of it.

The like spirit in these two passages is no bad concurrent argument, that *Moses* is author of the book of *Job*.

N O T E S.

Page 14. *When pain'd with hunger, the wild raven's brood, &c.*] Another argument that *Moses* was the author, is, that most of the creatures here mention'd are *Egyptian*. The reason given why the raven is particularly mention'd as an object of the care of providence, is, because by her clamorous and importunate *Ælian*. L. voice, she particularly seems always calling 2. c. 48. upon it; thence *κράσσω à κρόαζ* is to ask earnestly. And since there were ravens on the banks of *Nile* more clamorous than the rest of that species, those probably are meant in this place,

Page 14. *Who in the stupid Ostrich has subdu'd, &c.*] There are many instances of this bird's stupidity; let two suffice. *First*, it covers its head in the reeds, and thinks it self all out of sight.

Stat lumine clauso
Ridendum revoluta caput, creditque latere
Qua non ipsa videt.

Claud.

Secondly, They that go in pursuit of them, draw the skin of an *Ostrich's* neck on one hand, which proves a sufficient lure to take them with the other.

They have so little brain, that *Heliogabulus* had six hundred heads for his supper.

Here we may observe that our judicious as well as sublime author, just touches the great points of distinction in each creature, and then hastens to another. A description is exact when you cannot add, but what is common to another thing, nor withdraw, but something peculiarly belonging to the thing describ'd. A likeness is often lost in too much description, as a meaning in too much illustration.

Page 15. *What time she skims along the field, &c.*] Here is mark'd another peculiar quality of this creature, which neither flies nor runs distinctly, but has a motion compos'd

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pos'd of both, and using its wings as sails, makes great speed.

*Vasta velut Lybia venantium vocibus ales
Cum premitur calidas cursu transmittit arenas,
Inque modum veli sinuatis flamine pennis
Pulverulenta volat*—————

Claud. in Eutr.

Page 15. *She scorns the rider and pursuing speed.*] Xenophon says, Cyrus had horses that cou'd overtake the Goat and the *Wild-Ass*; but none that cou'd reach this creature. A thousand golden ducats, or a hundred camels, was the stated price of a horse that cou'd equal their speed.

Page 15. *How rich the Peacock, &c.*] Though this bird is but just mention'd in my author, I cou'd not forbear going a little farther, and spreading those beautiful plumes which are there shut up) into half a dozen lines. The circumstance I have mark'd of his opening his plumes to the sun is true, *Expandit colores adverso maxime sole, quia sic fulgentius radiant.* Plin. l. x. c. 20.

Page 16. *Though strong the Hawk, tho' practis'd well to fly.*] Thuanus (*de Re Accip.*) mentions a Hawk that flew from Paris to London in a night.

And the Egyptians in regard to its swiftness made it their symbol for the wind; for which reason we may suppose the Hawk, as well as the crow above-mention'd, to have been a bird of note in Egypt.

Page 16. *Thence wide o'er nature takes her dread survey, &c.*] The Eagle is said to be of so acute a sight, that when she is so high in air that man cannot see her, she can discern the smallest fish under water. My author accurately understood the nature of the creatures he describes, and seems to have been a naturalist as well as a poet, which the next note will confirm.

N O T E S.

Page 16. *Knowest thou how many moons by me assign'd,*
&c.] The meaning of this question is, know'st thou the
time and circumstances of their bringing forth? for to
know the time only was easy, and had nothing extraor-
dinary in it; but the circumstances had something pecu-
liarly expressive of God's providence, which makes the
question proper in this place. *Pliny* observes, that the
Hind with young is by instinct directed to a certain herb
call'd *Seselis*, which facilitates the birth. *Thunder* also
(which looks like the more immediate hand of provi-
dence) has the same effect, *Pf.* 29. In so early an age
to observe these things may style our author a naturalist.

Page 17. *Survey the warlike horse, &c.*] The descrip-
tion of the horse is the most celebrated of any in the poem.
There is an excellent critic on it in the *Guardians*. I shall
therefore only observe that in this description, as in other
parts of this speech, our *vulgar translation* has much more
spirit than the *septuagint*; it always takes the original in
the most poetical and exalted sense, so that most com-
mentators, even on the *Hebrew* it self, fall beneath it.

Page 19. *By the pale moon they take their destin'd round,*
&c.] Pursuing their prey by night is true of most wild
beasts, particularly the lion, *Pf.* 104. v. 20. The *Ara-
bians* have one among their 500 names for the lion,
which signifies the hunter by moon-shine.

Page 20. *He sinks a river, and he thirsts again, &c.*]

*Cephisi glaciale caput quo suetus anhelam,
Ferre sitim Python, amnemque avertere ponto.*

Stat. Theb. v. 349.

*Qui spiris tegeret montes, hauriret hiatu
Flumina, &c.*————

Claud. Pref. in Ruf.

Let not then this hyperbole seem too much for an
eastern poet, tho' some commentators of name strain
hard in this place for a new construction, thro' fear of it.

Page

N O T E S.

Page 20. *Go to the Nile, and from its fruitful side, &c.]* The taking the crocodile is most difficult. *Diodorus* says they are not to be taken but by iron nets. When *Augustus* conquer'd *Egypt*, he struck a medal, the impress of which was a crocodile chain'd to a palm-tree with this inscription, *Nemo antea religavit.*

Page 21. *The rashest dare not rouse him up, &c.]* This alludes to a custom of this creature, which is, when laded with fish, to come ashore and sleep among the reeds.

Page 22. ————— *Behold Destruction yawns, his spacious jaws unfold, &c.]* The crocodile's mouth is exceeding wide. When he gapes, says *Pliny*, *fit totum os.* *Martial* says to his old woman,

*Cum comparata rictibus tuis ora
Niliacus habet crocodilus angusta.*

So that the expression here is barely just.

Page 22. *Fate issues from his jaws in streams of fire.]* This too is nearer truth than at first view may be imagin'd. The crocodile, say the naturalists, lying long under water, and being there forced to hold its breath, when it emerges, the breath long repress'd is hot, and bursts out so violently, that it resembles fire and smoak. The horse suppresses not his breath by any means so long, neither is he so fierce and animated; yet the most correct of poets ventures to use the same metaphor concerning him.

Collectumque premens voluit sub naribus ignem,

By this and the foregoing note I wou'd caution against a false opinion of the eastern boldness, from passages in them ill understood.

Page 23. *Broad is his front, and when his burnish'd eyes, &c.]* His eyes are like the eye-lids of the morning. I think
this

N O T E S.

this gives us as great an image of the thing it wou'd express, as can enter the thought of man. It is not improbable that the *Egyptians* stole their hieroglyphick for the morning, which is the crocodile's eye, from this passage, though no commentator, I have seen, mentions it. It is easie to conceive how the *Egyptians* should be both readers, and admirers of the writings of *Moses*, whom I suppose the author of this poem.

I have observed already that three or four of the creatures here describ'd are *Egyptian*; the two last are notoriously so, they are the river-horse and the crocodile, those celebrated inhabitants of the *Nile*; and on these two it is that our author chiefly dwells. It would have been expected from an author more remote from that river than *Moses*, in a catalogue of creatures produced to magnifie their creator, to have dwelt on the two largest works of his hand (*viz.*) the elephant and the whale; this is so natural an expectation that some commentators have render'd *Behemoth* and *Leviathan*, the elephant and whale, tho' the descriptions in our author will not admit of it; but *Moses* living among the *Egyptians*, who were (as we may well suppose) under an immediate terror of the *Hippopotamos* and crocodile from their daily mischiefs and ravages around him, it is very accountable why he should permit them to take place.

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